

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A support for a predetermined container having a rim at its top opening, the support comprising a structure having a supporting ring constructed to interfit with the rim of the container, wherein a free-ended flexible finger suspender, is integrated with the structure and is deflectable from its formed position to an upstanding position in which it is capable of carrying weight of the container.
2. The support of claim 1 in which the finger suspender extends as an elongated cantilever from a root region located adjacent the supporting ring.
3. A support for a predetermined wide mouth container having a rim at its top opening, the support comprising a structure having a supporting ring constructed to interfit with the rim of the container, wherein a suspending element flexible along its length is integrated with the structure, , the suspender being deflectable from its formed position to an upstanding position in which it is capable of carrying weight of the container.
4. The support of claim 1, 2 or 3 in which the suspender is of sheet form.
- 20 5. The support of claim 3 comprising a molded unit.
6. The support of claim 3 wherein the suspender extends from a flexible root region located adjacent the support ring..
- 25 7. A container support comprising an elongated flexible suspender for the container constructed and arranged to provide lift offset to impart a substantial tilt to the container when the container is supported by the suspender.
8. The support of claim 7 in which the suspender is joined to a supporting ring of the support.

9        The support of claim 1, 2 or 3 in which suspender lies parallel with and along or between limiting planes of said supporting ring.

10.      A free-ended finger suspender associated with a support ring for a container,  
5        the finger suspender having an axis of elongation and comprising at least a flexible root region of relatively short extent along said axis of elongation, a main body of substantially greater extent along said axis, and a terminal end shaped to receive a supporting finger.

11.      The finger suspender of claim 10, in which said main body comprises an  
10        elongated leg portion, the terminal end comprising a head defining a finger engageable formation.

12.      The finger suspender of claim 11, in which said leg portion is of lesser lateral extent than said root portion and the finger engageable formation.

15        13.      The finger suspender of claim 11, the finger suspender being of sheet form and said finger engageable formation comprising an opening in the distal end of said suspender sized to receive a finger.

20        14.      The finger suspender of claim 11 molded monolithically with a supporting ring adapted to engage a mouth of a container.

15        15.      The finger suspender of claim 11 comprising part of an insert that is insert-molded with a supporting ring adapted to engage a mouth of a container.

25        16.      The finger suspender of claim 14 or 15 in which the supporting ring is part of an overcap.

30        17.      A suspending structure for a container comprising a supporting ring having an axis of symmetry and an elongated, flexible suspender joined to said ring asymmetrically

with respect to said ring in manner to cause the container supported by said ring to hang at an angle.

18. The suspending structure of claim 17, in which said flexible suspender is  
5 secured to said ring at a single root region.

19. The suspending structure of claim 17 in which said flexible suspender is  
secured to said ring at a plurality of spaced apart root regions.

10 20. The suspending structure of claim 19 in which said flexible suspender is a  
finger suspender.

21. The suspending structure of claim 19 in which said flexible suspender is a  
flexible bail.

15 22. The finger suspender of claim 1 or 20 in which the suspender defines at least  
two finger engageable formations, a first of said formations being spaced closer to the base  
root of the suspender than a second of said formations.

20 23. A support for a container comprising two flexible finger suspenders integrated  
with an overcap, the ends of the suspenders having a range of movement that enables them to  
be engaged and supported together by a finger.

25 24. The support of claim 23 wherein, in its as-formed position, the flexible finger  
suspenders lie in a plane in nested fusion.

25. The support of claims 23 comprising a pair of finger suspenders formed  
within a rim, the axes of extension of the suspenders being curved, the finger engageable  
formations of the suspenders being aligned on a first diameter and root bases of said  
30 suspenders lying on a second diameter that forms a substantial angle with the first diameter.

26. The support of claim 1 or 25 in which said finger suspender or suspenders are at least two inches long from and including a root region and a finger engageable region.

27. The support of claim 1 or in which the finger suspender or suspenders are at least as long as half of the minimum transverse dimension of the mouth of said container with which the support is adapted to fit, preferably having a length exceeding the radius or one half the lateral dimension of the rim of the container, in many preferred embodiments the length being about three fourths of that dimension or more.

10 28. The support of claim 1 wherein a finger engageable portion of a suspender lies close to the base root of the suspender.

29. The support of any of the foregoing claims, in which the lid or supporting ring is constructed to have a snap fit relationship to the container.

15 30. The support of any of the claims 1-25 in which the lid or supporting ring has a friction fit with a rim of the container.

20 31. The support of any of the foregoing claims adapted to be interfit with another support of like construction, each suspender being free-ended and having a head defining an opening, the head of one of said suspenders constructed to be threaded through the opening of the other of said suspenders to enable containers carrying said supports to be strung together.

25 32. The support of claim 31, in which the opening includes a slot that provides an enlargement in one orientation sized to pass the aligned head of another such suspender.

33. The support of any of the foregoing claims in which the lid or supporting ring has an opening in its center region for viewing the contents of the container.

34. The support of claim 33 in which a clear plastic film or sheet forms a seal with the mouth of the container or forms a seal with a rim of the lid or ring.

35. The support of any of the foregoing claims including a heat shrunk band of 5 plastic engaged about the exterior of the joint between the lid or supporting ring and the container.

36. The support of any of the foregoing claims associated with a clear film, foil or opaque cover arranged to seal the container.

10 37. The support of any of the foregoing claims in which the lid or supporting ring includes a preformed closure element insert (C<sub>1</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>, Figs. 8, 9).

15 38. The support of claim 36 in which said closure insert (C<sub>1</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>) is larger in diameter than the opening of the mouth of the container and arranged to be compressed against the mouth of the container to form a seal.

39. The support of claims 37 or 38 in which said closure element insert (C<sub>2</sub>) is joined as part of the lid or ring.

20 40. The support of claim 37 in which said closure element insert is joined to the underside of a rim of said lid or ring.

25 41. The support of claim 39 in which said closure element insert is adhesively joined to said underside of said lid or ring.

42. The support of any of the claims 37-41 in which said closure element is snap fit with respect to a support flange (F, Fig. 9) molded on the inside of a skirt or ring.

30 43. In combination, a package comprising:  
a container of greater than 5 cm (two inches) minimum horizontal dimension at its mouth which is closed at least in part by a removable lid or a supporting ring, the container having an upstanding wall, extending from a bottom to a wide mouth at the top of the

container, the mouth being about as wide as the maximum horizontal cross-section of the container, the wide mouth defined by a relatively thick rim formation, and the lid or supporting ring having a rim portion extending over and removably engaged with the rim formation to form at least part of an attachment of the lid or supporting ring to the container,  
5 said lid or supporting ring of the container and its attachment being constructed to support the container and its contents; and

10 a flexible suspender extending from the lid or supporting ring and arranged to be engaged by a support element such as a rod or hook of a product display, the suspender having a length of about 2 inches or more, such that when engaged by said support element, the container having a tilt angle.

44. In combination, a disposable package with consumable contents formed with the support of any of the foregoing claims 1-42 and a said container, or the combination of claim 43, wherein the container is of greater than 5 cm (2 inches) minimum horizontal dimension at its mouth, the container mouth engaged by the removable lid or supporting ring,  
15 as by snap fit, and the suspender being constructed and arranged to enable the container to be suspended by its lid for display and transport by the finger of a hand.

45. The disposable package with consumable contents of claim 44 wherein the contents comprise food such as dried soups, cereals, spices, grains, legumes, dried fruits,  
20 cookies, crackers, coffee in bean or ground form, nuts, snacks, popcorn, candy, yogurt, ice cream, butter, frozen juice concentrate, cheese dips and condiments.

46. The disposable package with consumable contents of claim 44 wherein the contents comprise tennis balls.

47. The disposable package with consumable contents of claim 44 wherein the  
25 contents comprise wrapped chocolate truffles.

48. The disposable package with consumable contents of claim 44 wherein the container is of thermally insulated construction and the contents comprise hot or cold contents such as hot soup, hot coffee, cold drinks, ready-to-eat foods, ice cream or yogurt in single servings or larger quantities.

49. The disposable package with consumable contents of claim 44 wherein the contents comprise hardware supplies or light bulbs.

50. The disposable package with consumable contents of any of the claims 44-49 including a tamper-evident feature.

5 51. The disposable package of claim 50 wherein said tamper-evident feature is a portion of heat shrunk film surrounding said lid or ring, preferably the heat shrunk film surrounding mating rim portions of the body of the container and its lid or supporting ring to add strength and stability to the connection.

10 52. The disposable package of claim 50 or 51 in which the lid or support ring is at least partially transparent and a tamper-evident feature is a closure of the container visible therethrough.

53. The disposable package with consumable contents of any of the claims 44-52 wherein the lid or supporting ring is constructed to provide vision access to the goods within the container.

15 54. The disposable package with consumable contents of any of the claims 44-53 wherein the package is assembled with like packages on a single or multi-tier counter rack, tree display, horizontal or vertical line of hooks or a display rod, useful, for instance, in space-limited stores, counters or kiosks.

20 55. The support of any of the claims 1-42 assembled with a container to form a package or the package of any of the claims 43-54, the package constructed to hang by a said suspender at a tilt angle, said package hung by the suspender from an elevated location relative to a customer such that the tilt angle so situates the side of the container that it faces the customer for notice or reading.

25 56. The support of any of the claims 1-42 assembled with a container to form a package or the package of any of the claims 43-54, the package constructed to hang by a said suspender at a tilt angle, said package hung by the suspender at a location below eye level

relative to a customer, such that the tilt angle tilts the top of the container toward the customer for notice or reading.

5 57. The support or package of any of the preceding claims in which the container is of molded plastic resin or resinous foam with integral sidewalls and bottom or of paper stock such as drinking cup paper stock, for instance, coffee cup paper stock.

10 58. The support or package of any of the foregoing claims wherein a rim member of the lid or the supporting ring has a depending skirt that is heat-shrunk about the rim region of a container to form an exterior seal.

15 59. The support or package of any of the foregoing claims 1-57 wherein there is a clear plastic film member that extends across the central portion of the lid or support ring to define a viewing window, the film member having a skirt that depends past, and is heat-sealed in the region of an upper rim formation of the container.

60. The support of claim 1 or 2, in which the finger suspender (FS<sub>2</sub>) in its as-formed position, lies outside of a rim of the lid or supporting ring.

20 61. The support of claim 60 in which the finger suspender has a free-end which defines an opening sized to receive a finger.